

## COUNCIL COMMENTS

by  
Councilman Jerry Gray

With our usual beginning of an invocation by Pastor Malcolm McQueen and pledges to the flags we were off and running for this months very short meeting.

Much of this meeting covered approval of the 2015-2016 budget, which had been thoroughly scrutinized at previous council meeting and workshops. That part went quickly with no new public comments and minimal discussion by the Council.

For Fiscal Year 2016, the budget is conservative, accomplishes all the objectives of the City, and provides for the necessary levels of services to the Citizens of Horseshoe Bay, while maintaining the same tax rate of \$0.25.

The budget proposal covers all traditional expenses including salaries, operations and maintenance, debt service, reserves, the annual capital program, and the street improvement plan.

There is a slight increase in water rates of an average 2.8% with the larger portion paid by the high use tiers. Garbage rates for residential increased 1% or 18 cents a month.

Also approved, were two new Rebate programs covering irrigation audits and rainwater collection systems. Watch for detailed information on these rebates opportunities in the local papers and on the City's website.

Assistant Fire Chief Stephanie Black was recognized for receiving the Rotary Club Patriot award. There were 10 nominees for this award with only 3 selected to receive so you can see it was very special for Stephanie. Also, our retiring Police Chief, Bill Lane, received a Distinguished Service award – the only one ever awarded by this Rotary Club.

That was just the beginning of recognition for Chief Lane. Former Mayor Bob Lambert commented on his time spent working with Bill and acknowledged Bill's professionalism and dedication to Horseshoe Bay. Mayor Jordan then presented Chief Lane with a framed State of Texas flag, which was flown over our State capital July 2, 2015 in Bill's honor and in recognition of his 45 years of service to law enforcement in Texas. He also received a framed letter from Texas Governor Greg Abbott also acknowledging the flag was flown over the State capital. The City Council also recognized Chief Lane's 16 years of service to the City. The final recognition, presented by Mayor Jordan, was a proclamation declaring October 1, 2015 as **Bill Lane Day** within the City of Horseshoe Bay. Obviously, Chief Lane has been an incredible asset to our City. Those present at this meeting gave him multiple standing ovations as these awards were presented.

Following that action, we had the pleasure of selecting Rocky Wardlaw as our new Chief of Police effective October 1, 2015. Rocky is well known within our community and has served with Chief Lane for the past 6 years. He is certainly well qualified for the position and is committed to carrying on the excellent level of service we are all accustomed to. Congratulations, Rocky!

It was a pleasure during this meeting to recognize the Information and Communication Committee for their successful effort in producing a promotional brochure for our City. These brochures will be distributed via many channels, including realtors and for guests of the Resort hotel so that visitors to our City will be made aware of the many services and amenities available here. The Committee members were as follows:

Design & creative by: Linda Baker, Jan Busse, Phil Schoch, Bill Gaylord & Lee Peterson, Chairman

Brochure graphics & production by Florence Edwards, Pixel Power Graphics Design, Marble Falls, TX.

We believe you will be impressed when you see the new brochure. Thank you Committee members for your service.

We also viewed the new “fly over” video of our City that will soon be added to the City web site. It is excellent. You can check it out at [www.horseshoe-bay-tx.gov](http://www.horseshoe-bay-tx.gov) starting Saturday. While you are in the web site, please sign up for the various “Notify Me” options that are available to you. By doing so, you will get notices of important activity, as you desire, sent to you by e-mail and/or text message. It is really a valuable service that you most definitely will benefit from. By the way, there is another feature available on the web site called “Let Us Know”, which provides you a means of letting the City know about things you feel need attention.

By the way, Cynthia Clinesmith announced to the Council a new program called Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) that will be available through the Texas Tech facility in Marble Falls. The classes will be single day workshops on a variety of subjects. Marble Falls is one of 19 cities within the USA to host these workshops which are made possible through the generosity of a single individual. Watch for more information in the local papers.

One additional item to note – the Council approved a motion to remain on Stage Two for water conservation which allows for watering twice a week. The Council will review the City’s position on this every year during our June meeting but, of course, has the option to make changes in the active stage as needed throughout the year.

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 PM, just in time to make it to happy hour!! Love those shorter meetings.